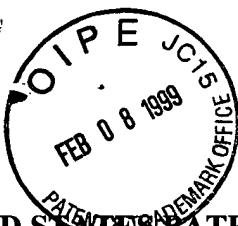


#12/1

**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Application of:	Paul H. Burmeister, Charles L. Euteneuer, Brian J. Brown, Paul J. Fordenbacher, Anthony C. Vrba
Application No:	08/737,492
Filing Date:	November 18, 1996
For:	IMPROVED TISSUE SUPPORTING DEVICES

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Docket No.: S63.2-6252

RESPONSE TO THIRD OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Official Action mailed January 6, 1999, please amend the above-titled application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 22-27 without prejudice to the patentable subject matter contained therein.

REMARKS

This Response amends the application to cancel claims, thereby traversing the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection. The remainder of this response concerns the possible interference which was proposed when the Examiner suggested copying claims into this application from US Patent 5,601,593.

INTERFERENCE

Claims 21-27 were added to this application by Amendment in response to the Office Action mailed May 4, 1998 in which the Examiner brought up Freitag, US Patent